

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 02697 201636Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02 SP-02 /039 W  
-----105685 201741Z /43

P R 201517Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2697

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN  
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO  
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC  
R 201516Z APR 78 FROM USIS/RPTD YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE  
UNCLAS

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.--FRONT PAGES OF SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA  
AND ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD APRIL 20 DEVOTED TO TREATY NEWS,  
INCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED APRIL 19 BY PANAMANIAN  
OPPOSITION POLITICIANS TO CALL FOR NEW PLEBISCITE. ERS  
PAPERS MATUTINO, CRITICA AND LA REPUBLICA NOT PUBLISHED  
BECAUSE OF APRIL 19 HOLIDAY.

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2. FRONT PAGE NEWS PRIMARILY AP AND DPA ITEMS FROM PANAMA,  
WASHINGTON, BUENOS AIRES, BOGOTA, ETC. OPPOSITION POLITICAL  
STATEMENT GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE, WITH PHOTO. ARTICLES  
QUOTED POLITICIANS AS TELLING PRESS CONFERENCE THAT "IN OUR  
OPINION THE U.S. REJECTED THE TREATIES," AND "THEY HAVE CHANGED  
WHAT WE APPROVED." POLITICIANS CALLED FOR NEW PLEBISCITE TO  
VOTE ON AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS ADDED TO TREATIES BY

SENATE.

3. OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY GROUP SAYS, "FROM THE JURIDICAL POINT OF VIEW...THE RESERVATIONS, AMENDMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE TREATIES CONSTITUTE A CLEAR REJECTION OF THE ORIGINAL TEXTS AND AN INVITATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO CONSIDER, THROUGH NEW NEGOTIATION, THE NEW DOCUMENTS... THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO REJECT SUCH MODIFICATIONS, BUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW CONTRACT NEEDS NATIONAL CONSENT..."

4. RADIO COMMENTATORS MORNING OF APRIL 20 NOTED POLITICIANS' DEMAND. RAMON PEREIRA AND JULIO ORTEGA OF RADIO MIA DO NOT AGREE THAT NEW PLEBISCITE IS NECESSARY, AND INSIST THAT IT IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO BRING BACK EXILES AND GET ON WITH NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. HISTORY WILL JUDGE THE PACTS, SAY THE TWO, AND WE MUST NOW LOOK TO THE FUTURE. RADIO EXITOSA COMMENTATOR DOMPLIN, WHILE NOT CALLING FOR A NEW PLEBISCITE, BELIEVES THAT IF ONE HIS TO BE HELD, IT SHOULD BE HELD IMMEDIATELY.

5. ESTRELLA EDIT EXTENDS INVITATION TO PRES. CARTER TO VISIT PANAMA, SINCE "NO ONE CAN DOUBT THE IMPORTANT AND PRINCIPLE PART THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES.. WITHOUT HIS CONSTANT AND EFFICIENT MARSHALLING OF ENERGY TO PERSUADE MANY SENATORS AS TO THE NECESSITY OF VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY ...THE RESULT OF THE SENATORIAL DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT...THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO HIM UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY EXPRESSED."

6. ESTRELLA BELIEVES GRATITUDE OF PANAMANIAN SHOULD BE EXPRESSED BY INVITING PRESIDENT TO COME TO PANAMA "AS A GUEST OF HONOR OF THE REPUBLIC TO RECEIVE HERE THE SPONTANEOUS AND SINCERE EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION, GRATITUDE AND LOVE OF THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE, WHO WILL WITHOUT DOUBT GRANT HIM A FEVERED AND MASSIVE RECEPTION, SUCH AS NO OTHER U.S. PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE ANYWHERE."

7. ESTRELLA EDIT CONCLUDES THAT LATAM CHIEFS OF STATE WHO SUPPORTED PANAMA SHOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO EXCHANGE OF ARTICLES OF RATIFICATION, AND "IF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO INVITE PRESIDENT CARTER, AND HE ACCEPTS, AS HE SURELY WILL, HE COULD WELL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SENATORIAL LEADERS WHO SO EFFICIENTLY WORKED WITH HIM TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES, SINCE THEY ALSO HAVE OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE." ITEM UNQUOTE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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Sheryl P. Walter  
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